(ii) establishment or development of a new airport in lieu of the airport referred to in clause (i); or

(iii) investment in the equity in respect of shares to be subscribed by the Authority in companies engaged in establishing, owing, developing, operating or maintaining a private airport in lieu of the airport referred to in clause (i) or advancement of loans to such companies or other persons engaged in such activities.

The Act does not envisage direct funding to State Government.

**Direct air services between Ahmedabad and Moscow**

1172. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to start direct flights from Ahmedabad to Moscow;

(b) if so, by when it is going to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Both the National Carriers e.g. Air India and Indian Airlines have no plans start direct flights from Ahmedabad to Moscow. However, Ahmedabad is connected to Moscow thrice weekly through code-share flights from Mumbai operated in association with Aeroflot.

**Improvement of airports in Himachal Pradesh**

†1173. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: SHRI ANAND SHARMA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: '

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that millions of foreign tourists come to Himachal Pradesh every year to see tourist places like Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Chamba, Kangraand Kinnaur etc;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to the landing of small aeroplanes

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.